

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01

OPR-01 A-01 SY-04 AID-05 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 /065 W

----- 051190

O 150625Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9374

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, CB, SOPN, US

SUBJECT: INACCURATE PRESS REPORTING ALLEGING EVACUATION OF AMERICAN  
CITIZENS FROM CAMBODIA

REF: PHNOM PENH 2838

1. DCM CALLED IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORRESPONDENTS  
TO EMBASSY THIS MORNING TO BRIEF THEM ON PRECISE NATURE OF  
EMBASSY ADVICE GIVEN TO COMMUNITY FOR WHICH IT IS RESPONSIBL  
E IN THIS COUNTRY. THIRTEEN ATTENDED, FROM FOLLOWING  
PAPERS AND SERVICES: ABC, CBS, NBC, AFP, UPI, AP, VOA,  
WASHINGTON POST, NEW YORK TIMES, BALTIMORE SUN, LONDON  
FINANCIAL TIMES AND ARMY TIMES. REASON FOR MEETING WAS  
TO CORRECT MISINFORMATION WHICH HAD BEEN FILED FROM HERE  
BY ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT AND WHICH HAS APPARENTLY  
RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD INACCURATE NEWS COVERAGE IN  
THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE.

2. DCM GAVE CORRESPONDENTS COPIES OF TWO LETTERS WHICH  
EMBASSY SENT OUT YESTERDAY AND TODAY, ONE ADDRESSED  
TO NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDENT IN THE KHMER  
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REPUBLIC, AND THE OTHER ADDRESSED TO THIRD COUNTRY

NATIONALS WORKING FOR OR UNDER CONTRACTS WITH THE USG  
OR FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHOSE WORK IS SUPPORTED BY  
THE USG. TEXT OF FORMER LETTER IS GIVEN IN REFTEL.  
TEXT OF LATTER LETTER IS SIMILAR IN CONTENT ALTHOUGH IT  
RECOMMENDS EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS ONLY. DCM EXPLAINED TO CORRES-  
PONDENTS THAT PURPOSE OF EMBASSY ADVICE COMMUNICATED  
BY THESE LETTERS WAS SIMPLY AND SOLELY TO ENCOURAGE  
DEPARTURE OF MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS AND NON-  
ESSENTIAL CITZNES RESIDENT AND TRANSIENT IN ORDER TO  
REDUCE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE THE NUMBER OF  
POTENTIAL EVACUEES FOR WHICH THIS EMBASSY MIGHT AT SOME  
POINT BECOME RESPONSIBLE. DCM STRESSED THAT ALL 200 USG  
EMPLOYEES, ALL 85 TCN EMPLOYEES, ALL PERSONS WORKING  
FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HELPING REFUGEES, ETC., ARE  
STAYING HERE ON THE JOB AND HAVE NO INTENTION TO EVACUATE  
UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS.

3. AP CORRESPONDENT HAD WITH HIM TEXT OF STORY HE FILED  
LAST NIGHT, WHICH HE SAID WAS BASED ON TEXT OF LETTER  
GIVEN IN REFTEL, AND WHICH HE INSISTED WAS AN ACCURATE  
ACCOUNT OF ADVICE EMBASSY HAD GIVEN OUT. THE LEAD READ  
AS FOLLOWS: "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SENT OUT A LETTER  
FRIDAY URGING ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH  
"FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY AND WELFARE", THE LETTER SAID."  
DCM POINTED OUT TO HIM AND TO OTHER CORRESPONDENTS  
PRESENT THAT THIS LEAD, WHICH HAD CASUED A FLURRY OF  
INACCURATE PRESS REPORTING IN THE US AND DOUBTLESS  
ELSEWHERE, WAS ENTIRELY INACCURATE AND MISLEADING SINCE  
THE EMBASSY'S LETTER RECOMMENDED ONLY THE EVACUATION OF  
DEPENDENTS REPEAT DEPENDENTS AND AMERICAN VISITORS WHO  
HAVE NO ESSENTIAL REASON FOR BEING HERE. AP LEAD, IN  
CONTRAST, STATED THAT LETTER URGED "ALL AMERICAN CITI-  
ZENS TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH." AFTER SOME DISCUSSION AP  
CORRESPONDENT (MATT FRANJOLA, WHO NORMALLY  
TRIES TO GIVE US A FAIR SHAKE, AND WHO IN THIS INSTANCE  
WAS GUILTY OF NOTHING WORSE THAN SLOPPY WORK) AGREED  
THAT HE HAD MISREAD THE LETTER AND "TELESCOPED"  
SENTENCES FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF IT WHICH GAVE A QUITE  
DIFFERENT MEANING THAN THAT INTENDED BY THE LETTER.  
REMAINDER OF STORY FILED BY FRANJOLA, AFTER THE INAC-  
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CURATE LEAD SENTENCE, WAS CORRECT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY  
IT'S THE LEAD THAT IS USUALLY PICKED UP BY OTHER NEWS  
SERVICES.

4. COMMENT: MISREADING OR MISINTERPRETATIO OF OUR  
LETTER BY AP CORRESPONDENT HAS UNFORTUNATELY DEFEATED  
OUR ATTEMPT TO TRANSMIT THIS ADVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY IN  
A LOW-KEY MANNER. WE WERE HOPING THAT THE SUGGESTION

THAT DEPENDENTS LEAVE WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF REDUCING  
OUR NUMBERS BUT WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY THAT  
COULD CAUSE SOME DAMAGE TO PHNOM PENH'S MORALE. WE  
BELIEVE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORRESPONDENTS NOW HAVE  
A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE UNDERSTANDING OF JUST WHERE  
THIS EMBASSY STANDS ON THE QUESTION OF EVACUATION, AND  
SOME OF THEM WILL FILE STORIES THAT WILL SET THE RECORD  
STRAIGHT. UNFORTUNATELY THE ACCURATE STORY IS NOT  
VERY EXCITING AND IT OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT RECEIVE THE  
PLAY THAT THE INACCURATE AP LEAD DID YESTERDAY.

DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, EVACUATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PHNOM02886  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750055-0743  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750239/aaaabiqu.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** AEMR, SOPN, CB, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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